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Tyler Spence
Parthenon@marshall.edu

Connor Woodruff

Tyler Kennett

Evan Green

Shauntelle Thompson

See next page for additional authors

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Authors

Tyler Spence, Connor Woodruff, Tyler Kennett, Evan Green, Shauntelle Thompson, Rafael Alfonso, Abby Hanlon, Abby Ayes, Alaina Laster, and Isabella Robinson

WV Celebrates MU Day at the Capitol



Photo courtesy of Ucomm

MU administration, faculty and students were recognized in Charleston on Tuesday. Student Government Association President Alyssa Parks advocated in support of increased funding for mental health services for state universities.

By **ALAINA LASTER**

LEAD REPORTER | LASTER3@MARSHALL.EDU

The 2022 Marshall Day at the Capitol took place Feb. 8 when students and faculty gathered with legislators to show the programs and accomplishments of the university.

“At the core of what we are doing, is just representing Marshall to our state leaders,” said Matt James, assistant dean of student affairs. “it’s important because you

know unless you are physically here and especially our students to be able to talk about their experiences on campus, not just their majors but what is it like to be a student at Marshall? What is the benefit of state support, state funding, and resources? So just continuing to be a voice for the school and to be an ambassador for the school...”

Story featured on page 12.

Controversial professor demands payment for damages, threatens lawsuit

Dr. Jennifer Mosher, a tenured microbiology professor who made inflammatory statements about Trump supporters in September of 2020, is demanding damage payments for violating her First Amendment rights. The university has until today to respond before any legal action.

Mosher continued on page 3.

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Speakers Announced for Black History Month



Photos by Shauntelle Thompson

By MEGAN GRAGG

REPORTER | GRAGG4@MARSHALL.EDU

A professor whose research assisted on recent documentary films about the deadly 1921 Tulsa race massacre will speak at Marshall University later this month to celebrate Black History Month.

John W. Franklin, who will appear Feb. 18 at 4 p.m. in the Shawkey Dining room of the Memorial Student Center, has been a specialist in the history and traditions of communities of the African Diaspora for nearly 25 years.

He is recognized for his research on the 1921 attack against the Tulsa, OK, in the Greenwood District known as the wealthy “Black Wall Street.” Last spring, Oklahoma State University-Tulsa presented Franklin with an honorary doctorate of humane letters.

“John W. Franklin has dedicated his life and career to the progression of truth and healing,” Pamela Fry, president of OSU-Tulsa, said. “I find it especially important to honor Mr. Franklin, who has spent decades shining a light on a neglected dimension of the African American experience in the nineteenth and early twentieth century.”

In addition, Dr. Carter G. Woodson Lyceum announced two more Black History Month speakers: physicians Elsy Caldwell of Cincinnati and Leonard White, assistant dean of Marshall’s Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine. They will discuss black physicians during the Civil War on Feb. 25 at 4 p.m. in BE5 at the Memorial Student Center.

Meanwhile, the Black History Month annual poster competition originally only accepted entries from Marshall students. The competition then broadened its scope to accept entries from elementary, middle and high school students.

This was the sixth annual competition for Marshall University students and the fifth year for K-12 students. The posters were graded for their adherence with the theme, the overall design and the potential to impact on race relations.

“I’m excited to see the art and creativity and the magic that you see, that you have brought forth in this program today,” said President Brad Smith in a comment about the competition. “I am also excited about the theme, and the reason why I am excited about the theme of Black History Month because it reminds us what happened in the past but what’s possible in the future.”

This year there were 59 entries among all the different age categories. The theme for this year was Black Health and Wellness, fitting well with the ongoing pandemic. The first-place award received \$200 while second and third received \$100 or \$50 accordingly.

The Marshall University student merit winners were Nicole Carey and Peyton Dolin. Jacob Wood won first place overall and his entry will become the official Black History Month poster for Marshall.

Senate Approves Changes To Water Quality Criteria

By TREVOR SMITH

REPORTER | SMITH2784@MARSHALL.EDU

West Virginia’s Senate voted to remove legislation’s power to approve changes to water criteria for site specific standards for the state last Tuesday.

The vote was 26 to 8 in approval of the change. The opposing voters said that this decision could lead to weakened water standards in the state.

The proposed rule changes would remove lawmaker approval as a requirement for revisions to human health criteria, as well as make minor changes to water standards. Removal of legislative approval will only apply to site specific changes, not statewide. The House of Delegates has not yet moved to vote on the revisions.

Senator Richard Lindsay said it would be unwise to take away the lawmakers’ role in providing input on human health criteria. West Virginia Rivers Coalition also objected to the proposition due to high cancer mortality rates in the state reported by the National Center for Health Statistics in 2017.

Weakened standards for the state would involve rare carcinogens, some of which were unseen in the state after West

Virginia banned the chemical products that contained them during the late 1970’s. Apart from these changes, the proposition will strengthen other standards to match the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) national standards.

Dr. Mindy Yeager-Armstead, a professor at Marshall University whose area of focus is human impact on aquatic ecosystems, said the changes are to keep up to date with the EPA’s standards.

“That’s in the Clean Water Act. It says that every so often the criteria is going to be updated with new science,” said Armstead. “We have to update our water quality standards every couple of years and review them. If we don’t adopt them, or if we do something state specific, we have to say why and justify it scientifically.”

Armstead said that the chemical carcinogens that could be weakened by the update are also not as significant as the opposing senate voters pointed out. “Figure there’s 86,000 chemicals widely circulating in the world right now. We don’t have water quality standards for all of them for human health or ecological,” said

Armstead. “Whenever new data, new science comes out, they’re going to be updated.”

The change for legislation removal says in the revised section, “Permit limits based on revisions to human health criteria made in accordance with this paragraph are subject to a 45 day public comment period and are subject to EPA review, but are not subject to review by the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee.”

Armstead said that these changes would speed up the process for water quality changes and give the public time to voice their concern or approval.

Armstead also said that legislators—unlike scientists—do not work closely with health criteria.

“Trout are cold water fish,” said Armstead. “So, if you’re trying to protect the spawning area for them, you have to keep the temperature lower.”

Armstead said that the changes are nothing life threatening, and they are just updates to keep up with current standards. “There’s always new data coming out, new studies, new information. You have to follow the new science.”

Controversial Professor Demands Payment for Damages, Threatens Lawsuit

By ALAINA LASTER

LEAD REPORTER | LASTER3@MARSHALL.EDU

A tenured professor of microbiology at Marshall University was dismissed from her position in September 2020 due to political comments made within her classroom. Since then, she has been reinstated and given back pay for the time off.

Despite her reinstatement, Mosher's attorney, Michael Frazier, said that "She still feels as though she has not been made whole."

"The investigation was a complete sham, which is what the order says," said Frazier. "I mean, it's ridiculous. You can only fire a tenured professor for six specific reasons and the one Marshall tried to pin it on was saying that she could not ever teach again, that her comments were so disruptive; but that's not what they had the investigator look at. They told the investigator to determine whether overtly political statements were made, which is not illegal. She made overtly political statements which is protected by the first amendment, so it's kind of a sham."

The administrative law judge, who in a case such as this one serves as judge and jury, came to the decision that the dismissal of Dr. Mosher was wrongful.



Dr. Jennifer Mosher was recorded during a Zoom Lecture on September 15, 2020.

An assisting factor in this case was an organization called FIRE. Katlyn Patton, who has been with FIRE for 2.5 years, said that they were trying to bring light to Dr. Mosher's case and how it violates her first amendment rights.

"Free speech and academic freedom, in order for those to continue to be strong protection, they have to protect speech that exists on what some people might consider to be the

fringes," Patton said. "So, of course there were people that were offended by Dr. Mosher's remarks, but unpopular and even sometimes offensive ideas have to remain protected for the first amendment and academic freedom to continue to be strong values. If everyone just protects that speech that the majority agree is quote-unquote ok, and disciplines people for the speech that maybe the majority or a strong loud minority decides is quote-unquote not ok, it really kind of makes it

so the right is not as strong..."

Dr. Mosher's investigator found that the statements she made were politically motivated which is when Frazier said the University "took it upon themselves" to decide that Dr. Mosher can't teach ever again.

Dr. Mosher was quoted saying "So, wearing a mask is serious... You know, like a certain person is holding rallies, and I think yesterday he held one inside - no one wore a mask and I become the type of person where I hope

they all get it and die," said Dr. Jennifer Mosher, the reinstated professor, during the recorded lecture.

She continued by saying, "I'm sorry, but I am so frustrated, and I don't know what else to do. You can't argue with them. You can't talk sense into them. I said to someone yesterday I hope they all die before the election. That's the only saving hope I have right now. I'm going to stop talking about politics because I really should not be talking about politics here. I don't know if that's a rule, but I've always kind of made it a rule myself to keep away from it, but you can't help it now. I mean, with the way this has been played."

In this case, Frazier said it was on the university to prove that the termination was proper. To prove this wasn't the case, Frazier said the statements she made were all protected by the first amendment. Also, as a tenured professor, Dr. Mosher has the academic freedom to discuss topics such as these in her classroom.

"What no one has talked about in this case is that the comments made were directly related to the class. She was teaching two classes, one of them..."

Mosher continued on Page 11

Senate Approves Revenge Porn Bill

By TREVOR SMITH

REPORTER | SMITH2784@MARSHALL.EDU

On Tuesday Feb. 2, the West Virginia Senate approved a bill that if passed into law could lead to harder punishments for revenge porn than a scornful look by peers.

"In our society, the way it is now, this bill will create some recourse for people who have been

victimized by another person's conduct," said Senator Charles Trump IV.

Senate Bill 452 would aim to give monetary compensation to victims of intimate pictures or videos showing sexual organs or sexual acts to the online world with civil lawsuits that could grant up to \$10,000 if won. It would also allow

victims to receive compensation equal to any profit poster received from the explicit content.

Victims must report the poster and content within 4 years of its upload for the case to be recognized in court. In court, victims can have their identities kept from the public for personal protection.

Exceptions for the bill apply to

law enforcement when the content is shared for investigation, medical treatment procedures and educational purposes.

The bill was voted for approval unanimously by the Senate and will move to the House of Delegates for voting. If passed by the house, the bill will take effect in July.

Amid Rapid Decline in Cases, More States Plan to End Statewide Mask Mandates in Schools

By **MIKE CATALINI**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — The governors of four states announced plans Monday to lift statewide mask requirements in schools by the end of February or March, citing the rapid easing of COVID-19's omicron surge.

The decisions in Connecticut, Delaware, New Jersey and Oregon were announced as state and local governments grapple with which virus restrictions to jettison and which ones to keep in place. The changes also come amid a growing sense that the virus is never going to go away and Americans need to find a way to coexist with it.

New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy called the move “a huge step back to normalcy for our kids” and said individual school districts will be free to continue requiring masks after the state mandate ends March 7.

Meanwhile, California announced plans to end its indoor masking requirement for vaccinated people next week, but masks will still be the rule for schoolchildren in the nation's most populous state.

The four states are among a dozen with mask mandates in schools, according to the nonpartisan National Academy for State Health Policy. New Jersey's requirement has been in place since classes resumed in person in September 2020.

Murphy cited the “dramatic

decline in our COVID numbers” in announcing the rollback. The omicron variant fueled a spike in infections over the holidays, but cases in the state are down 50% and hospitalizations dropped off by one-third since last week, he said.

“We are not — and I've said this many times — going to manage COVID to zero,” the governor said. “We have to learn how to live with COVID as we move from a pandemic to an endemic phase of this virus.”

Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont recommended ending the statewide mandate in schools and child care centers on Feb. 28. Delaware Gov. John Carney said his state's school mask mandate will run through March.

Oregon's mask requirements for schools will be lifted March 31. The statewide mask requirement for indoor public places will be lifted no later than the end of March, health officials announced.

Dr. Dean Sidelinger, the state medical officer and epidemiologist, said education and health officials will meet in the coming weeks to revise guidance to “ensure schools can continue operating safely and keep students in class” once the mask rule is lifted.

The March 31 deadline was selected using predictions by health scientists that COVID-

19-related hospitalizations will decrease to 400 or fewer by that time — a level that Oregon experienced before the omicron variant surge.

In California, unvaccinated people will still be required to be masked indoors after Feb. 15, and everyone will have to wear masks in higher-risk areas such as public transit and nursing homes and other congregate living facilities, state officials said. Local governments can continue their own indoor masking requirements.

State officials also announced that indoor “mega events” with more than 1,000 people will have to require vaccinations or negative tests, and those who are unvaccinated will be required to wear masks. For outdoor events with more than 10,000 people, there is no vaccination requirement, but masks or... negative tests will be recommended.

The debate over masks in schools has been polarizing in much of the U.S., with parents protesting at school board meetings and slates of candidates — pro- and anti-mask — seeking school board seats in an attempt to shape policies.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Monday that universal mask-wearing in schools “still remains our recommendation,” but she did

Masks continued on page 9.



Students line up to enter Christa McAuliffe School in Jersey City, N.J., April 29, 2021. New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy will end a statewide mask mandate to protect against COVID-19 in schools and child care centers, his office said Monday / Seth Wenig

Underground Film Club Welcomes New Members

By **ANDREW CORLISS**
REPORTER | CORLISS2@MARSHALL.EDU

Marshall University's new Underground Film Club will host film screenings with discussions ranging from cinematography to plot analysis, said Hannah Via, club president. In addition, members are encouraged to be creative by designing advertisements and merchandise.

The club began last year when Prof. Caroline Turner told her students that she would be interested in starting a film club. Those who were interested stayed after class and discussed how this idea could become a reality. Together

they viewed their first film, American Psycho, last October.

“The name was our advisor Caroline's idea,” said Via. “We wanted to be a little less formal than “Marshall University Film Club”, a little more relaxed and kinda artsy.”

There are currently nine students involved in the club, almost all of whom are from the College of Arts and Media. They are seeking to expand their roster and get the word out about their activities. Aside from more screenings, the club has discussed hosting an annual film festival starting spring 2023, inspiring students to create their own films and exhibit their talents.

Not Just Venues, Music Itself Impacted By COVID

By TYLER SPENCE

EXECUTIVE EDITOR | SPENCE83@MARSHALL.EDU

2020 was a year filled with shuttered stages, cancelled tours and awkward livestream performances, and the artists who made it all possible were left to salvage what they could of the largest sources of income for the music industry.

At first, it seemed as if the mainstream music industry did not know how to react to shutdowns or a global pandemic. Musicians that depend on their local scenes and venues to promote and play music were equally as confused, but they had even fewer resources to find solutions. The return of live performances has been a central pillar of the return to normalcy, but the pandemic brought something else to musical artists that was an unexpected side effect of a sick, isolated year. The ubiquitous feelings of an entire nation are not necessarily rare in the grand scheme of music history, but the lack of live performances makes this situation unique when compared to a similar cataclysmic event in the music industry: the terrorist attacks that took place on 9/11.

9/11 changed the landscape of the music industry, and suddenly an anti-establishment or anti-authority message was frowned upon. Country music is the most obvious example of a genre that responded to the uncertain industry that existed after the attacks. Songs like “Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning)” and “Courtesy of the Red White and Blue (The Angry American)” were created directly in response to the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York City.

For the current pandemic, its effects on the music industry are still emerging.

One of the artists I spoke with experienced the pandemic in a deeply personal way. Alan Brown, known professionally as Corduroy Brown, is a Huntington-based musician who spent days on a ventilator and was briefly thought to be dead during an emergency helicopter ride to a hospital. As open as he was with his story, it was easy to tell that this experience had transformed his life and the music that came along with it.

“It truly sucks living through major historical events sometimes... I think of stuff like this on the brighter side. It almost takes stuff like this for people to have a reset. It’s so easy to get caught up in the everyday routine that you forget to live, you forget to be in the moment... I think this music definitely reflects some of that too.”

Featured on Brown’s newest album released in August is a song titled “Better on the Ground” which was written by his friend and collaborator Jeffrey McClelland while Brown was in the hospital. The song deals with facing the possibility of death and asking God for a second chance at life.

The lessons Brown learned will not only inform the music he makes in the future and how he performs it, but this experience has also fundamentally changed his life.

“There’s a lot that you learn when you’re in a hospital bed and faced with your mortality. You learn not to waste time. That doesn’t mean not to rest or take breaks, but what are you putting your energy into? What do you want to do with the time you are given?” Brown asked in a matter-of-fact tone.

Outside of his time in the hospital,

Brown explained how his vision for an album that focused on collaboration was forced to move much slower than other music he had worked on in the past. That was not necessarily a negative thing, as Brown explained that this allowed more time to be taken on each song in a way that may have been impossible in a different time.

“It allowed us to take more time on the album, I don’t know exactly how it shifted the sound, but it gave us the ability to create more with what we have if that makes any sense. We could really sort of sit on those things [ideas] and re-digest them over and over.”

Some artists and bands have allowed 2020 and its difficulties to influence the music and the tone of their work. Major artists were even tasked with making a pandemic-related pop hit. Most notably, Ariana Grande and Justin Bieber did this with their quarantine-inspired collaboration “Stuck with You.” Other artists like Brad Goodall of the band Ona, specifically mentioned how the band was purposely trying to do the opposite of this: making music that would take people’s minds off the past year and allow them to enjoy life again. However, the band was not without its struggles in response to a covid-riddled year.

“Not being able to tour, to perform, can really hurt a bunch of musicians happiness, you know? We get a lot of comfort from playing, it’s what we do, it’s what we like to do, it’s what keeps us going, so taking that away from our profession and our lifeline, it definitely put a damper on things for a long time.”

Most artists make up about 75% of their income through touring, and the arrival of the pandemic allowed no



Brown performing at the Huntington Music and Arts Festival

method to recoup this income for artists not on the level to host virtual concerts or listening parties.

I asked Brad if the band’s music has been influenced by the past year to which he responded: “It’s been influenced only by the fact that writing songs about what went down, and tried to avoid writing songs that were downbeat, sad, or whatever. We want to come out of this like a flower in bloom. We’re not gonna write any songs that address it, at all... We rebelled against thinking about it or writing about it.” Brad explained.

Music combined with the age of the internet has created an environment in which speed has transformed how music is consumed. Artists without a record contract can easily record an

entire album and release it independently on the largest music services around the world. This has created an environment in which many smaller artists can make music about how they are feeling at the current moment and publish it immediately. This was something that has only become possible with the democratization of digital technology seen throughout the 21st century. Naturally, such a massively impactful event like a global pandemic would leave its mark on music that is popular and local alike. World-changing events like this can leave people with a newfound perspective on life or harden a band’s resolve to continue creating the type of music that made them successful in the first place.

Herd Volleyball Welcomes Beatrice Ciccarelli as an Incoming Freshman

By TYLER KENNETT

SPORTS EDITOR | KENNETT@MARSHALL.EDU

Marshall volleyball added a valuable defensive piece to its front line on Tuesday.

Ari Aganus, Marshall volleyball head coach, announced the signing of Beatrice Ciccarelli, an incoming freshman who will join Marshall in 2022.

"She brings a wealth of power defensively while being super agile and having an elite volleyball IQ," Coach Aganus said in a statement following the announcement. "Beatrice has been playing at a high international level for a long time."

Ciccarelli has been playing with Italy clubs for nine years. She was most recently a middle blocker for VTB Bologna. In a match that took place in December of 2021, Ciccarelli played a major part in a three-set sweep by securing the final point on a block in the third set.

Despite being a middle blocker, a player typically housed on the front line of defense, Ciccarelli's highlights demonstrate her abilities as a server as well. She routinely finds good placement on her serves when rotated to them. While Marshall typically utilizes substitutions during rotations for optimal serves, it is likely a good sign that Ciccarelli can handle what would typically be a sub optimal serve if her defensive ability was needed in a crucial situation.

Ciccarelli's ability as a blocker also showcases her experience. Ciccarelli is unique in that her highlight reels also tend

show slight mistakes, giving the viewer the opportunity to see every aspect of her game. In a match against Modena, Ciccarelli can be seen as someone who is patient in her block attempts, sometimes even setting up her libero on deflections.

Ciccarelli could be a great defensive piece for Marshall in the future due to the Herd's current lineup for the middle blocker position. Three of the four players currently listed as middle blockers for 2022 are seniors or graduate students.

"I chose Marshall because when I met the three volleyball coaches, they gave me a lot of familiarity and confidence," Ciccarelli said in a statement to herdzone.com. "They told me about the friendly and helpful people at Marshall and the very creative and pleasant environment there."

I can't wait to get to know them and my future teammates better and to be able to study and live within the structures that are there."

Ciccarelli attends Liceo Statale Laura Bassi, a secondary school in Italy, and will graduate this spring.

With her arrival comes a large change of scenery, but it seems to be one that Ciccarelli is ready for.

"I was offered the opportunity to reconcile volleyball and study, but also to live in a different society from mine with different

people from whom I hope to learn a lot," Ciccarelli said. "I chose Marshall because they are giving me the opportunity to live my biggest dream and I can't wait to start this new adventure."

Marshall and Ciccarelli's 2022 campaign will begin in the fall.

Last season, the Herd finished 9-16. The herd lost five seniors, including Ciara Debell.

First of Four Candidates Introduced for the Position of Athletic Director

By ALAINA LASTER

LEAD REPORTER | LASTER3@MARSHALL.EDU

The search for a new Athletic director has been narrowed down to four finalists, including candidate Jeff O'Malley, the current interim athletic director.

Former Marshall President Jerome Gilbert and current President Brad Smith worked to select a nine-person search committee to bring forth candidates for this position. Ginny Painter, a member of that committee, said that the group worked with CarrSports Consulting to develop a profile for the type of person they are looking for to take on this position.

In recent weeks, eleven candidates were brought forward, and last week they were knocked down to

four finalists.

In-person events are being held for student athletes and other students to meet these candidates and give them the opportunity to listen and ask questions about the Athletic Director the candidate plans to be. The first of these four meetings was held Monday, January 31st in the Memorial Student Center where Jeff O'Malley introduced himself as a candidate.

"I have been here at Marshall for twenty years now... I did not actually graduate from Marshall; I went to Miami University in Ohio, and I graduated with an accounting degree. I took a job as a tax accountant in New York City for a year and learned a lot about what I wanted to do in life and what I didn't want to do in life," said O'Malley.

He began his career with athletics after attending law school at the University of Dayton, beginning as a volunteer, and later taking a paid position. From there he moved to the University of Massachusetts.

"I worked for an individual by the name of Bob Marcum who was from Huntington; he went to Marshall. At the end of the six

years there he had interviewed for the A.D. job at Marshall, and he got it and he asked me if I wanted to come to Huntington and I was not married yet, but I went in and I told my wife. She looked at me and said 'What's going on?' And I said 'I think we're moving to Huntington,'" said O'Malley.

Since then, O'Malley has continued working with the athletic director and said that he loves it here. In his time here he has worked for two different Athletic directors: Bob Marcum and Mike Hamrick, and six different presidents including the interims. He said that he has learned and developed traits from each of them.

"You know but I have led this department for the last seven months with my own personality and my own style. Through what some people have called the most volatile time in college athletics with everything that we are dealing with I have met that challenge head on and enjoyed it," said O'Malley.

Throughout the meeting he addressed many questions regarding different athletic groups as well as questions regarding the transition to the Sun Belt. He said that the transition to the new conference will be "a better situation for everyone involved."

"I really feel like you know what and I've told people this earlier like what about me, what about job, I love Huntington...



O'Malley... continued from page 6

...I love Marshall, I love being around the student athletes and watching everybody perform and I really believe at the core of every decision that's made in athletics it has to go to student athlete welfare right? So, you have to ask the question, how is this decision going to affect the student athletes?" said O'Malley.

He said that this transition will give student athletes the opportunity to compete against schools that are more like Marshall. As the Sun Belt gained more schools, it became a better situation for us to join said O'Malley. The conference became more regionally centric for Marshall to be involved in with a more eastern oriented group of schools.

Volleyball player Riley Winslow asked O'Malley about air conditioning in Gullickson. She said, "I was just wondering if there were any plans to put an air conditioning system in the Cam Henderson Center, because it gets really hot, and we also slip and fall on the floor a lot."

O'Malley responded and said "We are actually working on that, so I'll tell you exactly where that is... late in the fall we put out a request for proposal to do a feasibility study to look at what we would need for air conditioning in Gullickson and the Cam Henderson Center. So, that went out in January, so that feasibility is taking place now and we should have the results of that sometime in March and then we can put bids out and see how much it's going to cost us and then go from there at that point. I know it's a need, it's becoming more and more of a need especially with workouts in the summer..."

He was faced with questions regarding representation for female athletics, financial standing within the athletic department, questions about the new baseball stadium that has been promised and many others. Student athletes within the meeting shared questions that the new athletic director will have to deal with on a regular basis. O'Malley provided answers to each question based on his experience as the interim for the past seven months.

"We are in decent financial standing; we had a good budget this year which was great especially coming out of covid. We got through covid, we didn't have to fire anybody, and we didn't have to lay anybody off. Now we had to free some positions, people left, and we didn't hire them back, but we didn't have to affect anybody's life by letting them go... to be able to come out of that with the budget that we had this year was really great. It allowed our coaches to get back to normal and even have a little more than they had back before covid. Now, we are going to have a challenge next year going into the budget situation... We are going to need to step up fundraising efforts," said O'Malley.

He said that we will have to work to increase attendance at football games by making the game day experience better. They will continue to look at what they can do in the athletic department to make this happen as well as make some changes to some of the current sporting events including men's and women's basketball. He said that "we aren't there yet, and it's not going to be an overnight thing." With the help of the business school, they intend to continue evaluating what it is they can do to create a more interactive and exciting environment.

O'Malley repeatedly mentioned the importance of the Herd Rises campaign in his goals to finish building the baseball field as well as take on projects like renovating Gullickson. He hopes to prioritize the new work with Gullickson soon after what is being done for the new baseball field.

Jeff O'Malley is the first candidate along with three others not yet introduced that will have their meetings throughout the week. The introduction of candidate two was Monday, February 7th between 2:15 and 3:30 in the John Spotts Room of the Memorial Student Center. Candidate 3 will be introduced Wednesday, February 9th at the same time and place in the Memorial Student Center. Candidate 4 will be introduced Friday, February 11th at the same time in Drinko library room 138.

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OPINION

Finding Innovative Ways to Combat Our Substance Abuse

By **RYAN WELD**

Ryan Weld is a Republican State Senator from Brooke County.

As your state senator, I have always made the mental health issues faced by West Virginians one of my top priorities here in Charleston. That's why earlier this week I was thrilled to see my legislation on what is known as Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC's) – Senate Bill 247 – passed unanimously out of the Senate's Health Committee.

This bill focuses on CCBHC's and the need for West Virginia to join forty-two other states in adopting this model of treatment which provides comprehensive mental health and substance use services to any person in crisis.

As a veteran and former prosecutor, I have seen firsthand the mental health and substance abuse crisis West Virginians continue to battle, especially those in the rural areas of our state. As a result, I am a strong supporter of the CCBHC model and the quality of care it would provide by connecting patients with the affordable and innovative services they deserve.

Unfortunately, West Virginia continues to face obstacles in mental health services, especially crisis services, which place a heavy burden on our communities - and our law enforcement officers in particular. Without access to appropriate alternatives, officers often are left with

a set of poor choices: leave people in potentially harmful situations, transport them to an emergency room (where our hospitals are already facing critical levels of patient capacity and workforce shortages due to COVID-19), or arrest them.

The CCBHC model will provide same-day access to mental health services, which is a vital component to not only properly treating a patient in crisis, but also to reduce recidivism within our judicial system.

In working on this legislation, I looked at the substantial success Missouri has already had with the CCBHC model. Since its implementation four years ago, that has seen a 27% increase in patient access to care, a 21% decrease in ER visits and a 12% decrease in hospitalizations. CCBHC's also are providing 122% more patients with medication assisted treatment for substance use disorder and mental health care.

Another of West Virginia's major needs is the improvement of mental health and substance use services provided to our veterans. Far too often have I seen fellow veterans suffer from substance use disorders which almost always stem from mental health illnesses such as PTSD, depression, and anxiety.

On this issue, Missouri has experienced a 41% increase in

veterans served by CCBHC's in just four years. No one better understands what veterans are going through than veterans - which is why the state continues to hire them to conduct outreach and break down the barriers of mental health treatments among their fellow veterans.

From a financial standpoint, West Virginia currently spends a significant amount of state dollars on our mental health services including involuntary hospitalizations. CCBHC's will allow us to maximize our federal dollars for care.

On a federal level, this treatment model enjoys considerable bipartisan support across the country – including Senators Shelley Moore Capito and Joe Manchin, as well as Congressman David McKinley – each have sponsored the federal legislation on CCBHC's.

While the CCBHC bill has passed through one committee, it still has several more steps to take before it becomes law – so I'll continue to advocate for it here at the Capitol until it does.

The support is there. The momentum is undeniable. I believe it is imperative to get this legislation passed. We owe it to the people of this great state who need us now more than ever.

The Parthenon, Marshall University's student newspaper, is published by students Wednesdays during the regular semester and every other week during the summer. The editorial staff is responsible for news and editorial content.

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109 Communications Building
Marshall University | One John Marshall Drive
Huntington, West Virginia 25755 | parthenon@marshall.edu
@MUParthenon

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"Factual errors appearing in The Parthenon should be reported to the editor immediately following publication. Corrections the editor deems necessary will be printed as soon as possible following the error."

Masks continued...

not fault states for dropping the requirement.

“It’s always been up to school districts. That’s always been our point of view and always been our policy from here,” she said.

Eight Republican-led states, including Florida and Texas, have bans on school mask mandates, though some have been suspended amid legal fights with districts and parents who want to require masks, according to the National Academy for State Health Policy.

In Illinois, where a judge last week struck down Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker’s statewide school mask mandate, the Democratic attorney general said Monday he will appeal the ruling. The Chicago school system, where teachers recently refused to hold in-person classes until an agreement was reached on safety measures, including providing KN95 masks to students and staff, said the ruling doesn’t apply and the nation’s third-largest district will

continue to require masks.

Murphy faced pressure from Republicans and some parents who have held rallies at the statehouse demanding an end to the mandate. But the governor has had support for the mask rule from the New Jersey Education Association, the state’s biggest teachers union.

In a statement, the union noted that trends show COVID-19 heading in the right direction, and added: “It is appropriate for Gov. Murphy to allow local districts to continue to require masking in communities where that is prudent based on local conditions.”

Nationwide, new COVID-19 cases per day have plunged by more than a half-million since mid-January, when they hit a record-shattering peak of more than 800,000. Cases have been declining in 47 states over the past two weeks, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

Also, the number of Americans

in the hospital with COVID-19 has fallen 28% since mid-January to about 111,000.

Deaths are still running high at more than 2,400 per day on average, the most since last winter, reflecting a lag between when victims become infected and when they die.

In New Jersey, it is unclear how many and how soon the state’s 600-plus school districts might end the wearing of masks.

In Paterson, the state’s third-biggest city, the school system will take time to consult with administration officials, principals, parents and staff, said district spokesperson Paul Brubaker.

Melissa Alfieri-Collins, a mother of two who disagrees with mask mandates in schools, saying she prefers “choice,” called the governor’s decision good news. But she raised concern that districts

might keep mask rules in place.

“For this reason, parents need an opt-out option for when and if districts do this,” she said.

Connecticut will also allow school districts to retain the mandate. It’s unclear if Delaware will follow suit, but the governor said he wanted to give school districts time to consider a local mandate.

Stephen White, a 55-year-old father of a 14-year-old son, said that if the lifting of the mandate were to take effect immediately, he wouldn’t be in favor of it. But four weeks from now is a different story.

“By that time period, if the rates are going down and they can say that ‘OK, kids are vaccinated’ —

if they have a substantial amount of kids that are vaccinated — I don’t have a problem with them not wearing a mask at school,” he said.

Francis Amegah, a 63-year-old with two children in the Newark school district, said the end of the mandate is “well overdue.”

“They shouldn’t be wearing masks. If something happens, we’ll be able to handle that. The parents should be able to take care of that,” he said.

Republicans claimed responsibility for pushing the governor to end the mandate.

“Gov. Murphy will never admit that the pressure is getting to him, but it absolutely is,” GOP Senate

WVU Fraternity Suspended Amid Hazing Allegations

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP) — A fraternity at West Virginia University has been suspended for a reported hazing incident.

Delta Chi fraternity was suspended Monday effective immediately. The interim suspension prevents Delta Chi from recruiting activities, involvement in social functions and other restrictions, the university said.

The allegations did not include alcohol or controlled substances, the university said, but it did not elaborate on the hazing other than to say it is a violation of the Student Conduct Code. The interim suspension will remain in place during an investigation and review process, WVU said.



New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy speaks to reporters during a briefing in Trenton, N.J., Monday, Feb. 7, 2022. Murphy announced plans Monday to lift the statewide COVID-19 mask requirement in schools a month from now because of the rapid easing of the omicron surge, calling the move “a huge step back to normalcy for our kids.” (AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

Marshall To Host 53rd Annual Winter Jazz Festival This Weekend

By VICTORIA WARE

REPORTER | WARE57@MARSHALL.EDU

Smith Recital Hall will feature performances from school bands and guest performers this weekend at the noncompetitive Marshall Winter Jazz Festival, one of the oldest jazz festivals in the country.

“The purpose of it is to give feedback to local school band jazz programs and just basically to help them get better in what they’re doing,” Director of the School of Music Martin Saunders said. “We listen and critique their performance when they come on campus and they get feedback from adjudicators.”

“Then they’ll actually move across the hall,” Saunders said, “from the recital hall stage and have a 20-minute clinic following their performance. So, basically, it’s to help them. And of course, it helps us to have any students on our campus for recruiting purposes.”

“It is one of the oldest festivals of its kind in the country,” Director of Jazz Studies Jeff Wolfe said. “This is its 53rd year. Essentially, it’s where we usually bring in a guest artist of some kind.”

Wolfe continued by saying, “It’s really about the jazz education side of things and really helping these students. Then, each evening, we have

featured concerts that begin at 6 p. m. with local groups as well as national groups that are usually tied into our guest artists.”

This year, the festival will take place on Feb. 11 and 12. The special guests will be Canadian saxophonist Pete Mills and his quartet based out of Columbus, Ohio.

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly affected the university’s ability to host the Winter Jazz Festival in the manner that it usually has. Last year the festival had to be done virtually, with school bands sending in YouTube videos of their performances or conducting workshops via Zoom. “We also had a guest artist as well, but instead of them performing and getting a masterclass like they do when it’s in person, they just presented a masterclass via Zoom that everybody could tune into and ask questions and that kind of thing,” Wolfe said. “So, that was the first time in its history where, since 1969, it had not happened in person.”

“This year, there’s still a lot of public schools that are not being able to hold full rehearsals because of varying requirements per district or county or however it’s working,” Saunders said.

The university’s music department as a whole has had to deal with several challenges as a result of the pandemic.

“There for a while in the first part of the pandemic, we couldn’t have performances; and then after a while we had performances, but there could be no audience...” Saunders said. “We are offering a streamed option for every one of our concerts and, as a result of that, it’s been kind of a positive thing in that we just installed a few weeks ago some new streaming cameras in the recital hall that are permanently there now that we can use to produce a much higher quality live stream.”

“We’ve also had to worry about recovery rates per rehearsal space to how quickly the air system will recover the room,” Saunders said. “So, what’s been going on typically is a group will rehearse for about 30 to 45 minutes then they’ll take a break and they’ll let the room recover and then they’ll go on with it, or they’ll change location.”

Despite all these challenges, Saunders says that the Winter Jazz Festival will still happen in person this year.

Marshall Artists Series Presents the “Russell Bruce Film Festival”

By VICTORIA WARE

REPORTER | WARE57@MARSHALL.EDU

At the “Russell Bruce Film Festival,” seven classic films will be shown in honor of friend of the Marshall Artists Series, Russell Bruce.

Bruce was a hospital administrator from Chicago, Illinois. He became a great admirer of the Marshall Artists Series after seeing country music singer Glen Campbell perform at the Keith Albee in 2012.

“He and his wife (Sandra Bruce) were special friends of the Marshall Artists Series,” Angela Jones, director of marketing for the Marshall Artists Series, said. “They had met our executive director before and had come to Huntington for a show when we did Glen Campbell. And he just fell in love with the theater and the fact that we were doing international films.”

After Bruce died, his family wanted to honor him by sharing his favorite movies with the public.

“He passed away in 2020, and his family—his wife and his sons—have wanted to do a film festival in his honor and they wanted to do it at the Keith Albee,” Jones said. “The family... curated films that we were going to screen on the big

screen based on his favorite films.”

According to Jones, the films selected include a foreign language film titled “The Exterminating Angel” alongside several American classics: “A Clockwork Orange,” “Easy Rider,” “Rebel Without a Cause,” “Woodstock,” the original Disney “Alice in Wonderland,” and “American Beauty.”

The Russell Bruce Film Festival will be presented at the Keith Albee Performing Arts Center beginning on Feb. 17 and continue until Feb. 20.



Public Domain

Mosher continued...

...was microbiology and Covid and the other one was specifically on the misinformation and pseudoscience that was being promulgated by Trump supporters, and that's what she was talking about. Both her comments were less than two minutes of a 75-minute class where after she made the comments the class continued without disruption," said Frazier.

The two classes that Mosher taught were CRN1220 (BSC: 302, SEC: 101) "Principles of Microbiology," and CRN5042 (BSC: 482) "Special Topics: Biology of COVID-19" which were both taught virtually due to the state of the pandemic at the time. At the time, the vaccine had not yet been developed and to combat the virus people of the world were limited to social distancing and masks. Dr. Mosher has multiple sclerosis and, due to a medication she takes for the condition, is immunocompromised. According to the ALJ, she had been requesting the ability to teach her course from home rather than her office on campus in the engineering building. She was granted permission but had to return to campus to teach when her home had connectivity issues. It was this trip to the campus that made her feel especially unsafe as she described passing at least four people either not wearing their mask correctly or not wearing it at all.

Dr. Mosher also felt unsafe in her own office, and this is what motivated her comments in the classroom. She proceeded to teach her classes as usual till the end of the week when the recordings from class were shared to twitter.

"And so, he (a student) put these things on Twitter and he hashtags Sean Hannity and Donald Trump Jr. and so of course all of these people immediately flood Marshall with emails and there's zero evidence that any of those people were either Marshall students or Marshall supporters," Frazier said. On the Twitter post, Frazier also said the posts are edited and feature no context.

"What we think really happened is that they got a letter from the state Senate. Senator Tarr in Putnam County sent a letter that seventeen conservative members of the Senate signed, which is essentially a threat to cut funding if they didn't do something about Professor Mosher," Frazier said.


"Provost Taylor admitted he took that as a threat. Now, Gilbert said he didn't think it was a threat and the ALJ found that ridiculous; it's clearly not true. So, they did succumb to pressure to the political rife and threw Dr. Mosher under the bus without giving her any. They violated West Virginia law, they violated

Marshall law, they violated federal law and the ALJ completely agreed with us, and they put her back to work and gave her full benefits. The problem is she accrued huge attorney fees and damage to her reputation, and they ruined her lab. She had a whole bunch of labs...she was doing all of these tests that would benefit Marshall, all of these experiments... we don't know if they are valid or not, they really ruined a whole bunch of experiments she was doing," said Frazier.

According to Frazier, Dr. Mosher had a heavier caseload than anybody and she had never been disciplined before. The university ignored this information and chose to "go straight for the death penalty essentially," Frazier said.

Based on other comments by Frazier, Professor Mosher wants to be a professor, but she still feels that the university has not faced any punishment for their wrongful termination of her. They have given the university until Wednesday to respond to their demands to pay damages to Dr. Mosher. If the university chooses to ignore this, Frazier said they intend to go to federal court and file a suit that will cost them another quarter of a million dollars or more.

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Marshall Students and Faculty Show Off at the Capitol

...Story begins on Page 1



President Brad Smith Meeting with Marshall's Mascot, Marco



Image of the W.V. State Capitol Building
Photo by Alaina Laster

By ALAINA LASTER

LEAD REPORTER | LASTER3@MARSHALL.EDU

Several Marshall organizations gathered to speak with legislators and attendees about their plans and goals for the rest of the year. Student Body President Alyssa Parks brought up the statewide mental health proposal through WVU.

"We are also working on a green bandana initiative right now," said Parks, "which is a mental health week of awareness to sign up for mental health first aid at different campuses across the state."

According to Parks, students who go through training to better support their peers during mental health crises will receive a green a bandana denoting them as an ally of mental health. Parks sees this initiative as incredibly important now due to limited mental health resources and funding

on campus. Funding for the green bandana initiative, though, comes through the Higher Education Policy Commission.

Parks also said that she is excited for student government to have the opportunity to interact with members of the House and Senate of West Virginia.

Funding for other programs in general proved a major topic at the event, especially for the Aviation Battery Research Institute. The program's long-term goal is building a facility at the Charleston's Yeager Airport costing approximately \$10 million as an addition to the Bill Noe Flight School.

Another program to expand its existing facilities was the Marshall Collegiate Autism program. Marshall hopes to match funds of \$1.25 million to accommodate the more than sixty people turn away by the program due to a lack of space.

Funds for street improvements were also highly discussed, as campus safety becomes an increasingly important issue. The university hopes to make it safer for pedestrians walking around campus—specifically 3rd Avenue, 5th Avenue, Hal Greer Boulevard and 20th Street—which will cost around \$125,000.

Also at the Day at the Capitol, President Brad Smith spoke with many in attendance and explained his goals for the event.

"My goals today are to showcase the amazing talent we have at Marshall, the exciting programs that we offer students and the impact we have on the state. For every dollar the state invests in Marshall, we create a \$12 economic impact, and we are going to make that even larger in the future," said Smith.

Photo Courtesy of UComm